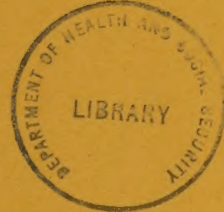


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BUCKFASTLEIGH URBAN DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT  
ON THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT  
FOR THE YEAR 1971

PRESENTED BY  
THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



## AREA No. 5 · SOUTH WEST DEVON

*DARTMOUTH and TOTNES Municipal Boroughs*

BUCKFASTLEIGH  
KINGSBRIDGE  
SALCOMBE



Urban  
Districts

KINGSBRIDGE  
PLYMPTON ST. MARY  
TAVISTOCK  
TOTNES




Rural  
Districts

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*With the Compliments of the  
Medical Officer of Health*



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URBAN DISTRICT OF BUCKFASTLEIGH.

Annual Report on the Health of the Area for the Year 1971.

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BUCKFASTLEIGH URBAN DISTRICT.

Report on the Health of the District for the Year 1971.

p r e f a c e

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present herewith the Report on the Health of the District during 1971, drawn up along the lines suggested in Department of Health & Social Security Circular 1/72, dated January, 1972. Included in the Report is the Report of your Public Health Inspector.

The Registrar General's population estimate of 2,690 persons is based upon the 1971 Census figure. There were 35 births giving a Standardised Birth Rate of 17.3 which is above the National Average of 16.0 per thousand. Deaths increased to 46 giving a Standardised Rate of 12.8 which is above the National Average of 11.6. The majority of deaths were caused by heart disease and cancer. There was one infant death due to an unavoidable cause.

Perhaps the greatest cause for concern in the Urban District is the fact that the Kilbury Sewage Works is unable to adequately purify the sewage it receives. It was thought that elimination of much of the infiltration water from defective sewers would have eased the situation, but this has not proved to be the case. The problem is complicated by the fact that a high proportion of the sewage received at the Works is coming from various factories in the District and is a potent effluent. The Council's Consulting Engineers and the Devon River Authority are investigating the situation and seeking a solution, possibly by extending the Works.

Again I wish to thank all Members of the Council and Staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

John Wildman.

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1972.



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT 1971.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

John Wildman, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.F.C.M.

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Mary E. Budding, M.B., B.Ch., B.Sc., D.P.H., M.F.C.M.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR (Also Surveyor).

G.T.W.Allen, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.  
Council Offices,  
Town Hall,  
Buckfastleigh.

Tel. Buckfastleigh 2333.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman

Councillor M. Tolchard.

Chairman of the Council

Councillor J.R.Willcocks.

and

Miss F.M.Axford, Messrs. A.W.Thompson, J.A.West, E.W.Pinney,  
and Dr.M. Wigram.

M.O.H.Central Office. Area No.5 - South West Devon,  
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M.O.H.Clerk.

Miss G. Prowse.

Tel. Plymouth 36644.



## SECTION A.

### VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1971.

Table 1.

Figures for 1970 are shown in brackets.

#### POPULATION:

Estimated Mid-Year Population of Buckfastleigh Urban District.

2,690 (2,440)

Natural increase or decrease	...	...	- 11	(- 7)
Migration in or out	...	...	+261	(-63)
Total increase or decrease	...	...	+250	(-70)

#### GENERAL STATISTICS:

Area of Buckfastleigh Urban District in Acres.

1,365

Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books (1st April).

1,033 (1,034)

Number of Houses per acre	...	...	0.757	(0.758)
Number of Persons per acre	...	...	1.971	(1.787)
Number of Persons per house	...	...	2.604	(2.360)
Dwellings owned by the Council	...	...	395	(395)

Rateable Value of District (1st April).

£104,080 (£103,318)

Sum Represented by New Penny Rate.

£968 (£406)  
(Old Currency)



# VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1971.

Table 2.

Figures for 1970 are shown in brackets

## BIRTHS:

Standardised Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population ... 17.3 (21.3)

Area Comparability Factor for Births ... .. 1.33 (1.33)

### Number of Live Births

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Total</u>	21	14	35
Legitimate	19	14	33
Illegitimate	2	0	2

Number of Still Births 0 0 0

## DEATHS:

Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 Population ... 12.8 (14.2)

Area Comparability Factor for Deaths ... .. 0.75 (0.75)

### Number of Deaths

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>All Ages - Total</u>	22	24	46
<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 yr.</u>	1	0	1
Number under 4 weeks of age	1	0	1
Number under 1 week of age	1	0	1

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births. ... 29.0 (26.0)

## COMPARISON WITH RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES:

Birth Rate 16.0 (16.0) Death Rate 11.6 (11.7)

Infantile Mortality Rate 18.0 (18.0)  
(Infants under 1 year of age)



PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

No notifiable diseases were reported.

---

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47.- No statutory action was necessary for the removal of persons in need of care and attention.

Section 50.- No burials took place under this Section of the Act.



CAUSES OF DEATH 1971.

								<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>
B4 Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	1	1
B19(3) Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	1	1
B19(4) Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	0	2
B19(6) Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
B19(7) Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	1	1
B19(8) Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
B19(11) Other Malignant Neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	6
B21 Diabetes Mellitus...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
B23 Anaemias	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	2	2
B46(3) Mental Disorders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	1	1
B26 Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
B28 Ischaemic Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	7	12
B29 Other Forms of Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
B30 Cerebrovascular Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
B46(6) Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
B33(1) Bronchitis and Emphysema	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
B46(8) Other Diseases of Digestive System	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
B46(9) Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	1	1
B43 Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
B45 Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	1	1
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	24	46



## SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

#### 1. Hospitals.

A General practitioner hospital with 15 mixed medical and surgical beds is situated in Ashburton. Other hospitals which serve the district are Newton Abbot Hospital and Torbay Hospital. There is a maternity unit at Broomborough Hospital, Totnes, to which many of the Buckfastleigh mothers are admitted for their confinements.

#### 2. County Council Health Services.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council provides the following services:-

Domiciliary midwives, home nurses, health visitors, supervisory care of expectant and nursing mothers and children under five, ambulance services, vaccination and immunisation procedures.

One district nurse/midwife works in the district together with a health visitor and a nursing assistant. A child welfare clinic is held twice a month and the health visitor for the area is in attendance.

#### 3. Social Services (Devon County Council).

The Area Director of Social Services at The Family Welfare Centre, Pomeroy House, Bridgetown, Totnes, Telephone Totnes 3665, is responsible for providing a Social Work Service under the Children's Acts, The Mental Health Act, 1959, and the National Assistance Act, to the elderly, the mentally ill, the physically handicapped and homeless persons and families. The Social Services Department also administers the Home Help Service, the Social Work Service to schools, the Occupational Therapy Services and residential homes and centres.

#### 4. Laboratory Service.

Bacteriological examinations of pathological specimens and samples of milk, water and ice cream are carried out at the Public Health Laboratories at Exeter and Plymouth. The chemical analysis of water is undertaken by public analysts at Exeter, and also by the South West Devon Water Board.

#### 5. Health Centre.

This was opened in May, 1966, and provides surgery accommodation and clerical help for two General Medical Practitioners as well as clinic facilities for Devon County Council Services.



#### 6. Mass Miniature Radiography.

Facilities were available at Totnes and Newton Abbot for the general public to visit the Mass Radiography Unit, which called regularly every fortnight at those towns.

#### 7. Family Planning Service.

Clinics are held each two months at Buckfastleigh Health Centre, on the 3rd Tuesday beginning at 2 p.m.

The Organising Secretary is Mrs. Bidmead, 10, Hembury Park, Buckfast, Telephone Buckfastleigh 2523.

#### 8. Cervical Cytology.

A cervical cytology clinic for the early detection of cancer in women is held approximately once a month at the Buckfastleigh Health Centre, Telephone Buckfastleigh 2534. All women are eligible to apply for a test.

#### 9. Meals on Wheels.

This voluntary service continued throughout the year and between 9 and 14 meals on average were provided twice a week. The meals were cooked at Buckfast Abbey, due to the generosity of the Abbot. Ten Volunteer Helpers distributed the meals under their Organiser, Miss P.S.K. Davies (Buckfastleigh 2592).



## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### 1. Refuse.

The quantity and variety of rubbish collected continues to increase, the average now being about 12 tons per week as against 11 tons in 1968. The material is burnt to reduce bulk and is then covered by quarry waste. To overcome the trouble caused by trespassers on the Tip the Council have let the exclusive rights of salvage on the Tip to a local Scrap Merchant, and an immediate benefit was noticed. Owing to the total closing of a tip belonging to a neighbouring Authority we now have had an increase in the amount of rubbish brought secretly to the Tip and dumped over the hedges and fences.

#### 2. Sewerage.

The defective sewers have now been relaid and an assessment of their value insofar as the flow is concerned showed a 62<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>% reduction on the previous year's flow. When compared with the previous 8 years the figure was 53%, so that a worthwhile and marked reduction has been achieved.

#### 3. Sewage Disposal.

Whilst good results have been shown for the relaying of the defective sewers, the exclusion of the surface water has meant that the sewage reaching the Works has not been diluted. From the analysis figures the final B.O.D. has worsened considerably owing to the high strength of the influent, as the efficiency of the Works is still the same.

#### 4. Caravans.

There is no change in the numbers or control of the Caravan Parks from last year. In the case of the Council-owned Park, the number of caravanners does not abate and the Council have ordered that additional amenities be provided for next year.

#### 5. Swimming Pool.

The continuous chlorination and re-circulation plant has proved satisfactory, but it was found that the water became very turbid and had to be changed more frequently than was anticipated, even though it was still sterile.

This Town amenity continues to be very popular.



## 6. Rodent Control.

The past year has shown again that the rat and mouse population is very well maintained at a low level.

## 7. Pest Control.

In this field wasps continue to cause the greatest nuisance although ants are becoming a close second. Part of the increase in the number of complaints is undoubtedly due to a growing awareness of the public to the fact that this service exists.

Wasps nests and ants in houses are dealt with free; a small charge is made for dealing with them elsewhere, although in the case of wasp nests near to the highway these are also dealt with without charge.

## 8. Water.

Water is supplied by the South West Devon Water Board and is satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

## 9. Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963.

Ten new premises were registered during the year, 6 of which were for refreshments, illustrating the holiday attractions of the district.



## SECTION D.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

#### 1. Food Premises.

These were all visited at least once during the year, and were found to be up to standard.

#### 2. Food Hygiene.

Cleanliness of premises and of the workpeople employed is most satisfactory.

#### 3. Food Condemnation.

One retail shop suffered losses by having a deep-freeze cabinet thaw out twice, allegedly due to the electricity power cuts upsetting the temperature controls.

The surrendered packets were immersed in disinfectant and then buried on the refuse tip.

#### 4. Meat Inspection.

No meat was inspected during the year as the two butchers now buy from an out-of-town abattoir. They both continue to have their slaughterhouses registered and licensed.



## SECTION E.

### HOUSING.

#### 1. General.

Of the 1033 inhabited houses in the district 395 were owned by the Council.

The two blocks of flats started last year have been completed and are now occupied.

A private Developer commenced an estate for 127 houses for private sale.

#### 2. Improvement Grants.

Improvement grants were approved in respect of 9 private properties in the Town.



## SECTION F.

### FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

The following is a summary of information required in respect of the year 1971. A total of 73 inspections was made in respect of 33 premises listed in the Factories Register.

One Factory was especially visited on a number of occasions due to a neighbour's complaint of noise. The Factory Inspector was consulted and readings were taken but the noise was found to be within the acceptable range.

#### Part I of the Act.

#### 1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

##### (i) Factories without Mechanical Power. (Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6)

Number on Register	...	...	...	2
Inspections	...	...	...	2
Written Notices	...	...	...	0
Occupiers prosecuted	...	...	...	0

##### (ii) Factories with Mechanical Power (Section 7).

Number on Register	...	...	...	28
Inspections	...	...	...	28
Written Notices	...	...	...	0
Occupiers prosecuted	...	...	...	0

##### (iii) Other Premises under the Act. (Section 7)

(Electric Stations, Institutions, Sites of Building Operations, Works of Engineering Construction, but excluding Outworkers' Premises).

Number on Register	...	...	...	3
Inspections	...	...	...	43
Written Notices	...	...	...	0
Occupiers prosecuted	...	...	...	0

#### 2. Cases in which Defects were found.

See table overleaf.



2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were made
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			by H.M. Insp.	To H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temp. (S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7.)					
a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-



PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK.

(Sections 133 and 134)

A small Firm has become established in the Town for the supply of artificial flies for anglers. After training, the work is given out to about 15 females. This work does not appear on the list specified by Order under the Act.

Nature of work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August List required by Sec. 133(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending list to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in un-wholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing apparel (making)	-	-	-	-	-	-



PART VIII OF THE ACT.

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(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing apparel (making)	-	-	-	-	-	-





